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GENE SAUCIER: My name is Gene Saucier,

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23 G-e-n-e S-a-u-c-i-e-r. I'm a Frenchman from Louisiana
24 originally. I've lived here in the state for about 15
25 years. I'm a geologist, I've been a professional

1 geologist for 30 years, and I've been following this
2 nuclear waste controversy since I entered my career. I
3 lived in New Mexico before living here, I lived there for
4 15 years, and the waste site down there and still is as
5 controversial as it is here.

6 My opinion as a geologist and of all the
7 geologists that I know and are friends with is that Yucca
8 Mountain is a safe place to store nuclear waste. Nothing
9 is entirely 100 percent safe in the world. There is no
10 such thing as no risk.

11 The problem is that we have had nuclear waste
12 that is generated by the government and by private
13 industry in this country over 60 years that has done good
14 things for the people of this country. It has -- a lot
15 of the -- almost all of the high-level nuclear waste was
16 produced making bombs that have protected us and have
17 kept us safe.

18 We've got this waste. It's sitting there.

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19 It's in tanks at Hanford and elsewhere. They're starting
20 to leak. We are endangering all the other people in
21 other areas of this country by refusing to take this
22 waste and put it in a place that has been studied to
23 death. I have never seen a scientific study that has
24 gone on and on and on with every level of expertise,
25 scientists and universities. I think we've spent one
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1 billion dollars studying this site.

2 Do you think we're going to start over with
3 another site someplace and start spending a billion
4 dollars again somewhere else to restudy this problem? We
5 have a restricted area that is already contaminated that
6 is essentially off-limits. It is well protected. It is
7 not our right to deny this country the right to get rid
8 of some of this really harmful stuff that was produced,
9 like I said, for our own benefit, to keep that from being
10 put in a safe storage.

11 Unfortunately, we're a small state. We don't
12 have the political clout of Texas or New Mexico -- not
13 New Mexico, but other states. I mentioned Texas because
14 I was in Texas when they were studying putting it in salt
15 domes in Texas. I think that would be preferable to

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16 Nevada, but they had the political clout. We do not have
17 the political clout to stop this. We've got a good
18 place, it's been studied, it's ready to go. We need to
19 do something with this waste, and I think it should be
20 put here.

21 AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Leave it where it is.

22 GENE SAUCIER: It's not safe where it is.

23 You want these people to die?